

AMENDED IN ASSEMBLY JULY 7, 1999

CALIFORNIA LEGISLATURE—1999–2000 REGULAR SESSION

Assembly Joint Resolution

No. 27

Introduced by Assembly Member Honda

June 22, 1999

Assembly Joint Resolution No. 27—Relative to the war crimes committed by the Japanese military during World War II.

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

AJR 27, as amended, Honda. War crimes: Japanese military during World War II.

This measure would urge the Government of Japan to formally issue a clear and unambiguous apology for the atrocious war crimes committed by the Japanese military during World War II and to immediately pay reparations to the victims of those crimes. This measure would also call upon the United States Congress to adopt a similar resolution and would urge the President of the United States to take all appropriate action to bring about a formal apology and reparations by the Government of Japan.

Fiscal committee: no.

1 WHEREAS, During World War II, the Governments of
2 Japan and Germany flagrantly violated the Geneva and
3 Hague Conventions and committed atrocious crimes
4 against humanity; and

1 WHEREAS, The Government of Germany has
2 formally apologized to the victims of the Holocaust and
3 gone to great lengths to provide financial compensation
4 to victims and to provide for their needs and recovery;
5 and

6 WHEREAS, By contrast, the Government of Japan has
7 refused to fully acknowledge the crimes it committed
8 during World War II and to provide reparations to the
9 victims of those crimes; and

10 WHEREAS, 33,587 members of the United States
11 Armed Forces and 13,966 American civilians were
12 captured by the Japanese military in the Pacific Theater
13 during World War II, many of whom were current or
14 former residents of the State of California; and

15 WHEREAS, Many of the United States military and
16 civilian prisoners of the Japanese military during World
17 War II were confined in inhumane prison camps and
18 subjected to forced labor and died unmentionable deaths;
19 and

20 WHEREAS, The Japanese military invaded Nanking,
21 China, from December 1937 until February 1938, during
22 the period known as the “Rape of Nanking,” and brutally
23 slaughtered more than 300,000 Chinese men, women, and
24 children and raped more than 20,000 women; and

25 WHEREAS, The people of Guam and the Marshall
26 Islands, during the Japanese occupation from 1941–1944,
27 were subjected to unmentionable acts of violence,
28 including forced labor and marches, and imprisonment
29 by the Japanese military during its occupation of these
30 islands; and

31 WHEREAS, Three-fourths of the population in Port
32 Blair on Andamans Islands, India, were exterminated by
33 Japanese troops between March 23, 1942, and the end of
34 World War II; many were tortured to death or forced into
35 sexual slavery at “comfort stations,” and crimes beyond
36 description were committed on families and young
37 children; and

38 WHEREAS, The Japanese military terrorized Manila,
39 the capital of the Philippine Islands, from December 23,
40 1943, until February 14, 1944, during a period known as

1 the “Rape of Manila,” and committed crimes that
2 resulted in the deaths of over 100,000 Filipinos by torture,
3 rape, and starvation; and

4 WHEREAS, At least 260 of the 1,500 United States
5 prisoners, including many Californians, believed to have
6 been held at Mukden, Manchuria, died during the first
7 winter of their imprisonment and many of the 300 living
8 survivors of Mukden claim to suffer from physical
9 ailments resulting from their subjection to Japanese
10 military chemical and biological experiments; and

11 WHEREAS, The Japanese military enslaved millions of
12 Koreans, Chinese, Filipinos, and citizens from other
13 occupied or colonized territories during World War II,
14 and forced hundreds of thousands of women into sexual
15 slavery for Japanese troops; and

16 WHEREAS, Although the International Commission of
17 ~~Jurists in Geneva, Switzerland, ruled in 1993 that women~~
18 *Jurists, a nongovernmental organization (NGO) in*
19 *Geneva, Switzerland, ruled in 1993 that the Government*
20 *of Japan should pay women* who were forced to be sexual
21 slaves of the Japanese military during World War II,
22 ~~known by the Japanese military as “comfort women,”~~
23 ~~deserve as “comfort women,”~~ at least \$40,000 each as
24 compensation for their “extreme pain and suffering,”
25 none of these women have been paid any compensation
26 by the Government of Japan; and

27 WHEREAS, At the April 1999 meeting of the Northern
28 California Western Nevada Pacific District of the
29 Japanese American Citizens League (JACL), the board
30 approved a resolution, cosponsored by the Florin, Golden
31 Gate, and Sequoia JACL Chapters, that supported
32 reparations for, and a clear apology to, the innocent
33 civilian victims of Japan’s wartime atrocities; and

34 WHEREAS, At the March 1999 meeting of the
35 Sacramento Jewish Community Relations Council, a
36 service of the Sacramento Jewish Federation, the council
37 approved a resolution supporting reparations for, and a
38 clear apology to, the innocent civilian victims of Japan’s
39 wartime atrocities; now, therefore, be it

1 *Resolved by the Assembly and Senate of the State of*
2 *California, jointly,* That the Legislature of the State of
3 California urges the Government of Japan to do both of
4 the following:

5 (1) Formally issue a clear and unambiguous apology
6 for the atrocious war crimes committed by the Japanese
7 military during World War II.

8 (2) Immediately pay reparations to the victims of
9 those crimes, including United States military and civilian
10 prisoners of war, the people of Guam and the Marshall
11 Islands, who were subjected to violence and
12 imprisonment, the survivors of the “Rape of Nanking”
13 from December 1937 until February 1938, and the
14 women who were forced into sexual slavery and known
15 by the Japanese military as “comfort women”; and be it
16 further

17 *Resolved,* That the Legislature of the State of California
18 calls upon the United States Congress to adopt a similar
19 resolution that follows the spirit and letter of this
20 resolution calling on the Government of Japan to issue a
21 formal apology and pay reparations to the victims of its
22 war crimes during World War II; and be it further

23 *Resolved,* That the Legislature of the State of California
24 requests that the President of the United States take all
25 appropriate action to further bring about a formal
26 apology and reparations by the Government of Japan to
27 the victims of its war crimes during World War II; and be
28 it further

29 *Resolved,* That the Chief Clerk of the Assembly
30 transmit copies of this resolution to the Japanese
31 Ambassador to the United States, the President of the
32 United States, the President of the Senate, the Speaker of
33 the House of Representatives, and each California
34 Member of the Senate and the United States House of
35 Representatives.

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